



DAILY JOURNAL

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2007

Johnson County, Indiana

50 cents

WEATHER



Today
Skies: Partly cloudy, snow
Temps: High 29; low 13

MAP, PAGE A8

SUPER BOWL

Morwick in Miami

Don't have tickets to the big game? Can't swing a trip to Miami?

We'll keep you up-to-date on all the action on and off the field as the Indianapolis Colts get ready to battle the Chicago Bears in the Super Bowl.



MORWICK

Sports editor Rick Morwick is packing his bags and heading to Miami to bring you all the hype and hoopla that is the Super Bowl.

Morwick lands at Miami International Airport on Monday. His daily dispatches will start Tuesday.

He'll tell you how the teams are preparing for the big game and analyze the key matchups.

In addition, he'll write about the sights and sounds of Miami and even go hunting for southsiders who are partying on South Beach.

Tell us your Colts story

Colts fans, we want to know how devoted you are.

Tell us why you adore the Colts and how you show them the love.

We want to publish your stories and photos in the paper and online.

Where do you plan to watch the game? Are you having a party? Is your home taking on a definite Colts décor? What is your game-day ritual? Who is your favorite player and why?

If you are going to Miami, let us know.

And we have to be fair. Bears fans, we want to hear from you, too. Does your household have divided loyalties? Let us know how you are keeping the peace.

We want to publish your photos too.

Send your Colts stories, story ideas and photos to newstips@thejournalnet.com or call 736-2712.

DEATHS

- Franklin
Grace LaVonne Carter, 88
Greenwood
- David E. Alderson, 64
Indianapolis
- Myron W. Hemmingsen, 87
Linda Ann Smith Jones, 57
Elsewhere
- Connie S. (Woodall) Bray, 54
Cheryl Ann Capler, 49
Doris L. Evans, 78
Ronald Lee Owens Sr., 60

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CG woman found dead in her home

Death being investigated as a homicide

By CANDACE BEATY
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
cbeaty@thejournalnet.com

Police are investigating the death of a woman found in her Center Grove area home Wednesday morning.

Sheriff's detectives are investigating the death as a homicide.

The cause of death has not been determined, Johnson County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Doug Cox said. An autopsy will be

conducted today, he said.

A neighbor found the body about 10 a.m. in the home in the 200 block of Melrose Lane.

The home is in the Fair Oaks subdivision, near Morgantown and Fairview roads.

The woman was found lying on the bed in an odd position, Cox said. A knife with blood on it was found in the room, he said.

The victim's name had not been released Wednesday afternoon, pending notification of family.

Neighbor Barry Hampton tried to call his neighbor when he saw that her dog was out. The dog usually stays in the front yard because the couple have an electric fence, but the dog did not have its collar on, he said.

When Hampton tried to call the home, no one answered. When no one answered the door either, he started looking into windows, he said.

(SEE WOMAN, BACK PAGE)



A woman was found dead inside this Center Grove area home Wednesday morning. Sheriff's detectives are investigating the death as a homicide.

INDIANA COMMERCE CONNECTOR



TAKING ITS TOLL

Crowd's message clear: Don't build beltway



Above: More than 400 people packed the Branigin Room on the campus of Franklin College on Tuesday night to listen to the governor's plans and voice their opinions about the proposed beltway. Top left: David Taylor of Needham Township

makes a comment about the proposal during the meeting. Top right: Diana Bartnick-Schmidt and Nolan Schmidt of Franklin Township look at an Indiana map to see what part of Johnson County the proposed highway is projected to go through.

One person speaks in favor of toll road around Indy

By ANNIE GOELLER
AND JOSEPH S. PETE
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF WRITERS

Landowners worried about whether hazardous materials will come through their back yards and the types of businesses that could locate along a proposed toll road aren't sure their concerns will make a difference.

More than one Johnson County resident told state officials they see the proposed Indiana Commerce Connector as a done deal and their opinions won't change plans to build the road through their farms and homes.

"I don't believe my input will change anything. I think this will come through," said Michael Lucas, who lives south of State Road 44.

Lucas and more than 400 other landowners fired questions and concerns at a state transportation official during a meeting Tuesday night at Franklin College.

Parts of the meeting were emotional and tense, with residents shouting out



Franklin Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews listens to some of the opinions about the proposal during Tuesday's town-hall meeting.

comments, groaning at responses to questions and concerns and cheering at statements from landowners.

One person spoke in favor of the project.

The toll road is proposed to run from Interstate 69 near Pendleton south and then west around Indianapolis, ending at

Interstate 70 west of Mooresville. It would cross Johnson County south of Franklin.

Some of the 20 residents who spoke at the meeting expressed doubt that the road would accomplish the goals of the state: relieving traffic congestion and bringing high-paying jobs to the area.

A Franklin resident formerly of Kentucky thought a toll road would simply shift congestion without solving the problem. "It's an antiquated highway system wherever I go. Highways are built before the people come, and you can't control the congestion," Sean Devero said.

The toll road would change the community and make it more difficult for farmers to access their fields and for people to maneuver the area, some critics say. Without high paying jobs, the changes aren't worth it, said Janet Vanzant, of Franklin.

"If we trade our land access and history for \$8-an-hour jobs, it's not worth it," she said.

Other parts of the county and state are also open for development, and large

(SEE CROWD, PAGE A2)

Some of the views of the people who attended Tuesday night's town-hall meeting at Franklin College. Page A2

Political

"I've had it with bureaucracy. Where does it quit?"
Joseph DeHart
Former Johnson County commissioner

Tradition

"These have all been farms since the Civil War."
Jim Abraham
Johnson County resident who lives near State Road 252

Economy

"I feel they think farming is not a business in Indiana."
Scott Logsdon
Johnson County farmer

Stillness

"We just wanted a less-hectic, rural life. For me, this is a quality-of-life issue."
Phil Brewer
Greenwood resident

Growth

"It's going to happen. We can either plan for it or let it happen later."
Scott Richardson
Franklin resident

Panel votes for all-day K, not funds

Bill would require districts to offer option next year

By DEANNA MARTIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS
A House committee approved a bill Wednesday to implement statewide full-day kindergarten, but the vote was more a symbolic gesture of support for the concept than an endorsement of a concrete plan.



DANIELS

The House bill does not outline any way to pay for full-day kindergarten, which would cost between \$135 million and \$285 million a year, according to the Legislative Services Agency.

Bill sponsor Rep. Greg Porter, D-Indianapolis, said the budget-writing Ways and Means Committee could find a way to fund the proposal.

"They work out most of the details," he said.

The bill, which cleared Porter's House Education Committee on a 9-3 vote, simply states that all elementary schools must offer optional full-day kindergarten beginning with the next school year.

A Senate bill includes Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels' plan to phase-in the full-day program over three years, starting with the state's neediest children this year. That plan would cost about \$145 million over the next two-year budget cycle.

Daniels, who visited two full-day kindergarten classes this week, has said the state can afford the phase-in approach.

Suellen Reed, the state's superintendent of public instruction, said she hoped lawmakers would work on both the Senate and House bills to come up with the best plan for implementing full-day programs.

"The details in this bill or details in any other bill as presented today are not important," Reed said. "The most important thing is that it's moving, that people are talking about it."

Porter said he hopes the Senate passes the governor's proposal so lawmakers in both chambers could come up with a full-day kindergarten plan by the end of April, when the legislative session is scheduled to end.

The House bill is a good way to start debating the merits of full-day kindergarten and whether it should be offered to all children immediately, Porter said.

"It's a work in progress," he said.

The debate was lopsided. Fourteen people spoke in favor of

(SEE PANEL, BACK PAGE)